



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Natural Heritage Program

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*Schoenolirion wrightii* Sherman  
**Texas Sunnybell**

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**Identification:** Plants are bulbous or rhizomatous perennials. Bulb apical on vertical rootstock, ovoid, sometimes tunicate or elongate, 7-15 mm in diameter, scales lunate, imbricate, and white. Vertical rootstock 1-8.5 cm long and 0.6-1.5 cm in diameter, with the contractile roots at top. Leaves 2-7, linear, flattened and somewhat keeled, 10-44 cm long, 1.5-11 cm wide, not withering to persistent fibers, and usually shorter than the scape and inflorescence. Inflorescence rarely branched, 5-60 flowered. Bracts mostly lanceolate-acuminate, often ovate-obtuse, 1.5-12 mm long. Perianth segment strongly recurved, white with green stripes on abaxial surface, mostly 3-nerved, ovate to ovate-lanceolate with rounded apices, 4-7.5 mm long and 1.5-4 mm wide. Ovary and style green. Capsules 4-5 mm broad. Seeds 2 per locule, globose, flattened on one side, 2-3 mm broad, glossy black.

**Key ID characters:**

- Well developed bulb or rhizome.
- Leaves 2-7 in number and 10-44 cm long.
- Simple raceme of white flowers (5-60 flowers).
- Sepals and petals white with green stripes.
- 2 glossy black, globose seeds per chamber of capsule.

**Habitat:** Seasonally wet sandstone glades and wet saline prairie.

**Taxonomic Comments:** This species is a member of the family Liliaceae. There is only one other species of the genus *Schoenolirion* known in LA: *S. croceum*.

**Status:**

Wetland: OBL - Obligate Wetland

Global: G3 - Vulnerable

State: S1 - Critically Imperiled

**Range:** Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas.

**Soils:** Sandstone, with high sodium soils.

**Similar Species:** *Schoenolirion croceum* is the only other species of the genus known to occur in LA. It is most easily distinguished by having yellow flowers and can be found as far south in LA as Beauregard Parish.



Sandstone Glade



*S. croceum*

**Reason for Rarity:** Habitat loss.

**Known Distribution in Louisiana:**

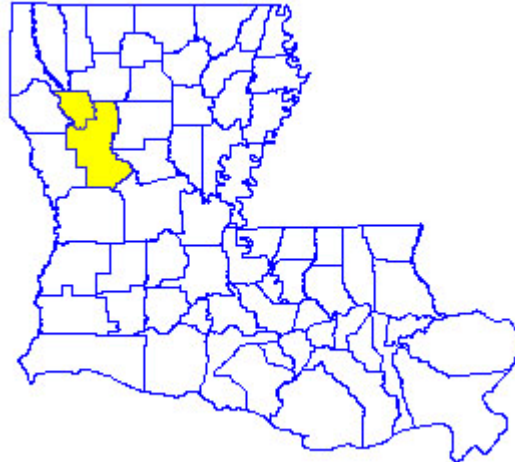
Natchitoches, Red River

**Dates of Natural Heritage Program Observations:**

1990(2), 1993(5)

**Best Time for Viewing this Species:**

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D



Distribution in Louisiana

**References:**

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